

7.026 1966 Representation in
Stormont L.O.

Greenways
Knockholt
near Sevenoaks
Kent

October 13th., 1966

Dear Miss Macdonachie,

I've recently received two letters from Arthur Gentle, in Lurgan (whom you met at Stormont that day) asking if any progress is being made towards the provision of camping sites in Northern Ireland.

I suggested he get in touch with you, as the travellers' champion in the House. However, if you haven't heard from him perhaps you will drop me a line and let us know what is happening at the moment.

You probably know that the Minister of Housing and Local Government in London sent out a circular some months ago asking all local authorities to report back by this December on what they are doing or intend to do about travelling families in their areas. We will be asking the Minister for information about this in due course.

My wife and I have just returned from France where we have been staying with Vanko Rouda, secretary of the Gypsy association. The French Government is considering channelling social aid money through the association which is led by well-educated Gypsy people.

We are now setting about forming an association in Britain with the aim of pressing the Government to do something and also to promote self-help among Gypsies and travelling people.

I'm also writing to Mr. Bingham for up to date information.

Best wishes,